



In Search of Eldorado

Link to the Eldorado Song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VczD1olutQ8>



Hello to Family & Friends

I got a pretty late start because I had to find a dump station and empty the tanks, then decide what to do first.

Once I decided on Culver City it took me almost two hours to get there using the PCH.

My tour time at SONY Studios was for 2:30. When I talked to Keith on the phone I asked about RV parking. He was unsure, but warned me to be very careful where I drive it. Culver City police are notorious for sitting near the side of a road where RV length is restricted and giving out big fines. I was lucky to find a spot at the Veterans Memorial Park, within walking distance to the studio.

The SONY lot is a conglomeration of three studios. When MGM went bust they were purchased by Columbia, and later purchased by SONY. So this is in reality the MGM lot of the early days of motion pictures.

Movies made here include DR. ZHIVAGO, BEN HUR, SINGIN' IN THE RAIN, 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, GHOSTBUSTERS and of course THE WIZARD OF OZ.

TV includes DAYS OF OUR LIVES, MARCUS WELBY M.D., JEOPARDY and THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE.

This is not the shark attack, earthquake, flood, tram tour that Universal and Warner have, we will be on actual sets and will not be able to go into some areas or take photos due to sets not seen on TV or movies yet.

Day 49
Thursday,
February 20th

Culver City

Weather
50's to 70's Sunny

In Search of Eldorado

By Edgar Allan Poe

Gaily bedight,
A gallant knight,
In sunshine and in shadow,
Had journeyed long,
Singing a song,
In search of Eldorado.

But he grew old—
This knight so bold—
And o'er his heart a shadow—
Fell as he found
No spot of ground
That looked like Eldorado.

And, as his strength
Failed him at length,
He met a pilgrim shadow—
'Shadow,' said he,
'Where can it be—
This land of Eldorado?'

'Over the Mountains
Of the Moon,
Down the Valley of the Shadow,
Ride, boldly ride,'
The shade replied,—
'If you seek for Eldorado!'

THE STUDIO MUSEUM

Do you recognize these guys?
That's right, GHOSTBUSTERS.



I was surprised to see that someone actually wears this to make it move. I guess that's cheaper than a mechanical one. Obviously before CGI.

THE DA VINCI CODE (2006)



Actual props from the movie



Jerry Seinfeld's apartment from the show.



Stage 15, built in the early 30's, is the largest sound stage of any studio. Many classic movies were filmed here.



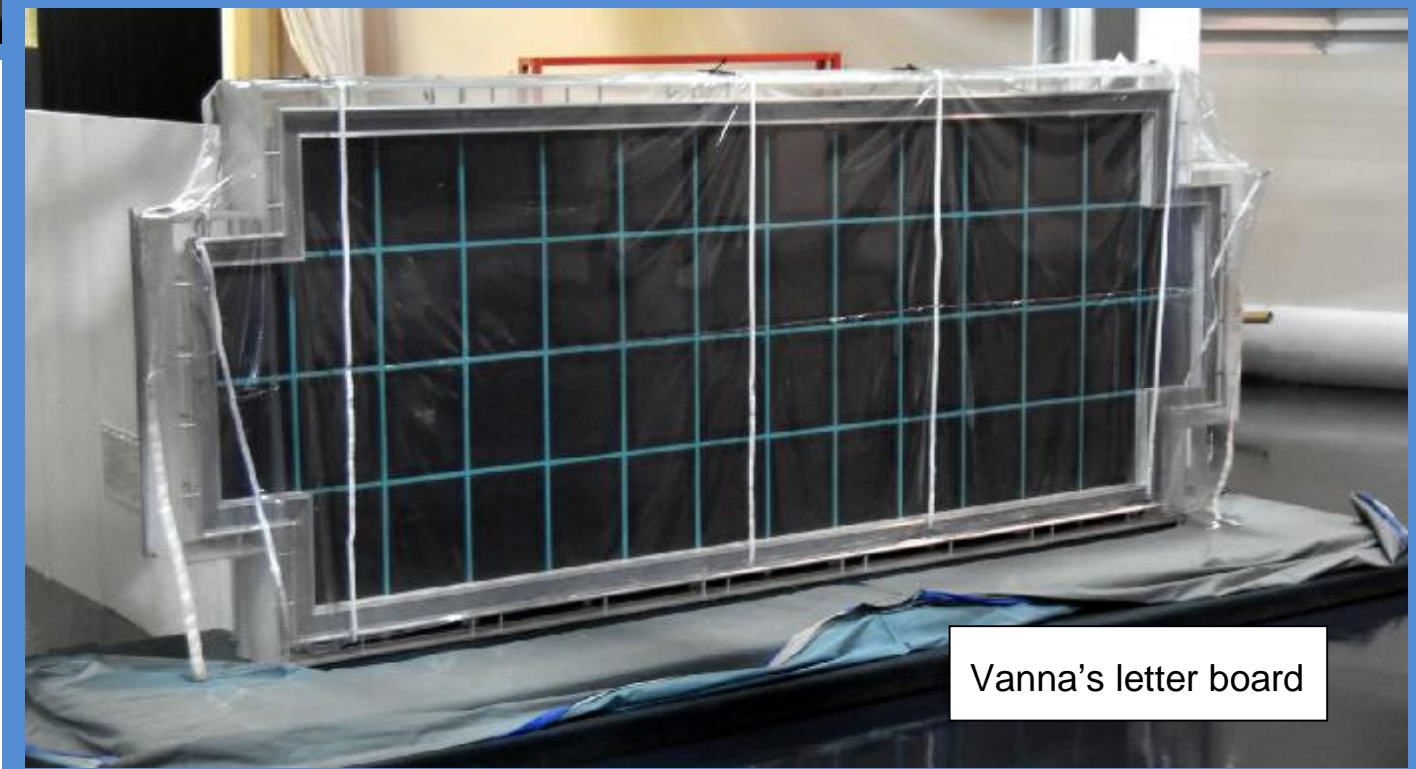
We were allowed onto the WHEEL OF FORTUNE set. JEOPARDY was taping next door.



Most of you probably remember that back in the beginning winning contestants had to spend their winnings on the set. This Dalmatian was the least expensive and was always the last item purchased.



The 'only one of its kind' Wheel



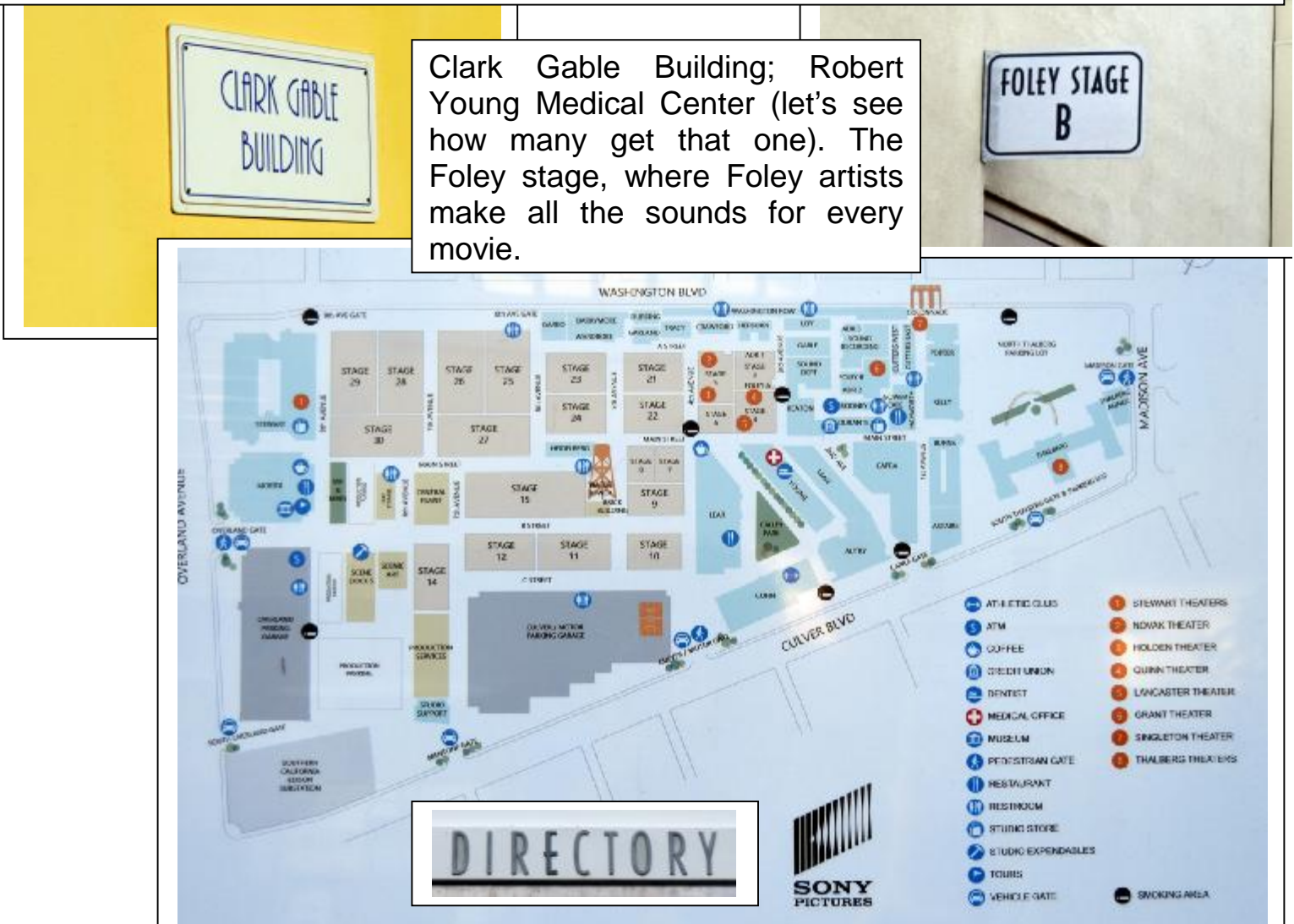
Vanna's letter board



I mentioned Keith earlier. Keith is Keith Coogan, our tour guide, whose name may sound familiar. His grandfather was Jackie Coogan, born in 1914 and one of the highest paid stars in Hollywood by the age of nine in 1923. By 1931 his popularity waned, and in 1935 when his father died he sued his mother for the over \$4 million he earned back in the 20's. He was only granted \$126k because under California law at the time, he had no rights to the money. Public uproar resulted in the Child Actors Bill where studios must set aside a portion of earnings in a trust fund. This is now known as the Coogan Act. He acted in bit parts until the early 60's when he played Uncle Fester in THE ADDAMS FAMILY. That one I remember. Uncle Fester was always a favorite.

Keith also started acting as a child, first in commercials, then for one season on THE WALTONS in 1979. He made enough at nine years old to buy a house. He was the voice of the fox in Disney's THE FOX AND THE HOUND; Brad Anderson in ADVENTURES IN BABYSITTING; Christina Applegate's brother in DON'T TELL MOM THE BABYSITTERS DEAD; TV included THE LOVE BOAT, FANTASY ISLAND, EIGHT IS ENOUGH, MORK & MINDY; CHIPS; and many more. Keith was very interesting, funny, knowledgeable and a clown.

I bring all this up now because it was at the 'little red roofed house' above that he told us all this. That little house is where school was held at the studio for the likes of Mickey Rooney, Judy Garland, Lana Turner, Elizabeth Taylor and others.





I'd like to thank my parents, my daughters, my friends, and the members of the Academy....oh, sorry, got a little carried away there.

These are the real deal.



This is the one used in the movie.

For the most part I thoroughly enjoyed a studio tour without all the bells and whistles, I will get one of those next week.

I walked back to the RV with enough daylight left to take the bike to another sight.





This artwork was on the way.



Roadside America called these 'The Hobbit Houses' and I can understand why.







I mentioned earlier that, for the most part, I thoroughly enjoyed the studio tour. The reason for the down feeling is because during the tour I received a text and a phone call that my good friend Jim Marquardt, the almost brother who was diagnosed with lung and brain cancer just after Christmas, passed away, just after 3 p.m. today.

Jim was able to be moved to his son's home in Alabama and to see and hold his first grandson, who was born only last week. Jim was able to spend some quality time with his family before the end.

I am sure all our sympathies go out to Jim's mother, sister and brothers, of which Bob and Steve are also very good friends of mine, like brothers all.

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I'll see you in Eldorado Jim.....